



Board of Health Agenda

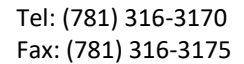
Date: March 12, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2024
2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025
3. UPDATES:
Director Updates
4. UPDATES:
Nursing Updates
5. UPDATES:
Environmental Updates
6. UPDATES:
Restaurant Updates

Adjourn



1. Jessica Kerr, Present
2. Charlotte Breef-Pilz, Present
3. Lindsey Sharp, Present

Thank you everyone.

As stated, this Open Meeting of the Arlington Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with the supplemental budget bill signed by Governor Healey on March 29, 2023.

The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

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Before we get to today's agenda, I am going to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

Marie Walsh Condon, the Board Chair, will introduce each agenda item. After the item is presented, she will go down the list of Board Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold comments or questions until your name is called and you are unmuted.

For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.

Finally, each vote taken during this meeting will be conducted by roll-call vote.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon welcomed all to today's Board of Health meeting and reviewed today's agenda.

Agenda Items

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2024

No comments or corrections.

Motion made by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon to approve the minutes.

2nd by Dr. Peter Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion

2. DISCUSSION
Meeting Schedule 2025

Meetings were generally set for the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

3. UPDATES:
Department

Director Leger shared that the Public Health Director position offer has been made and accepted. The new Director will start at the beginning of March. The Assistant Health Director position interviews have begun and will continue in the beginning of January. A Community Resource Specialist has been hired and will begin shortly. This position supports all town residents under the age of 60. Public Health Associate Patrick Brennan will be finishing his position at the end of December.

No questions or comments from the Board.

4. UPDATES:
Public Health Nurse

Jessica Kerr shared about the Community Health Needs Assessment. The planning sessions have now been fully completed. The group made goals, objectives and strategies for the Community Health Improvement Plan. The four priority areas are affordable housing and cost of living, awareness of social services, active transportation and safety, and mental and behavioral health. Health Resources in Action is writing up the first draft of the Health Improvement Plan which will hopefully be ready by the 8th of January. The goal is to have the final document in March.

Nurse Kerr mentioned that there has been a decline in the pertussis cases recently. For the year the total pertussis cases stands at 39, the bulk of those came since the beginning of the school year. 32 of the cases were from Arlington Public Schools, primarily Arlington High School.

5. UPDATES:
Environmental Health

Inspector Breef-Pilz shared updates on the permit renewals. There will be two trainings run by the Department for tobacco establishment owners and employees, this is a mandatory training. All Body Work applications are in. All Body Art applications have been submitted. Two establishments have closed, Ink by Mina and Benchmark Tattoo.

Wastehauler, Marijuana establishments and rDNA permits have also been submitted for 2025. Dr. Walsh Condon asked about the practitioner permits. Breef-Pilz explained that the practitioner permit is tied to the establishment so any practitioner must have new license if the establishment changes. Dr. White asked about updating the regulations. Inspector Breef-Pilz answered that it is something the department would like to do in the future when the Department is fully staffed.

Inspector Breef-Pilz shared that there are multiple open housing cases right now. There are a few hoarding cases that the Department is involved in, along with the Council on Aging and the Police Mental Health Clinician.

The Leaf Blower by law transition plan has a significant date coming up on March 15, 2025. After that day, commercial operators will no longer be permitted to use gas powered leaf blowers within the Town of Arlington. Residents will still be allowed to use gas powered leaf blowers on their property until March 15, 2026.

6. UPDATES:

Restaurants

Inspector Breef-Pilz gave a summary of the year for Food establishments. There will be 166 permits given out for 2025. There were 4 closures throughout the year. There were 9 new establishments opened and two residential kitchens. There are six applications in the plan review process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

Motion made by Dr. Marie Walsh Condon to adjourn.
2nd by Dr. Peter Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion

Thank you everyone for attending and participating in today's meeting. Have a nice day.



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Meeting Minute (draft)	01292025_Minutes_Board_of_Health_draft_.pdf	BOH Meeting Minutes 01292025



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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025
Time: 3:00pm
Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

In accordance with the Governor's [Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20](#), the June 23, 2024 public meeting of the Arlington Board of Health shall be physically closed to the public. The meeting shall instead be held virtually using Zoom.

Zoom Login instructions:

Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found on the [Board's agenda and minutes page](#) or on the [Town's meeting calendar](#). The meeting registration information is listed below. When attendees enter the meeting, they will be placed into a virtual waiting room. Attendees will be admitted into the meeting from the waiting room at the start of the meeting.

Please register in advance for this meeting: <https://town-arlington-maus.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

On this agenda:

Colleen Leger, Health and Human Services Director for the Town of Arlington made the following opening statement. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this Town of Arlington Board of Health meeting is being held virtually via Zoom for audio and video participation of Board Members and the public. When you entered this meeting, you were automatically muted. During this meeting you will be unmuted individually as needed. These controls are in place to ensure that today's meeting is safe and effective. At this time, I would like to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on today's agenda are present and can hear me.

Board Members, when I call your name and unmute you, please respond in the affirmative.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye Present
2. Laura White, Aye Present
3. Peter Rice, Aye Present

Health Department staff, please respond in the affirmative when I call your name and unmute you.

1. Lindsey Sharp, Present
2. Charlotte Breef-Pilz, Present
3. Laura Munsey, Present Aye
4. Jessica Kerr, Present

Applicants and Representatives, do we have anyone on the call representing an application?

1. Caeleigh Smith – Body Art Variance
2. James Quinn – Body Art Variance
3. Maureen Buzby – Tobacco Violation Hearing
4. Reilly Ellis – Tobacco Violation Hearing
5. Bhargav Patel – Tobacco Violation Hearing

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Dr. Marie Walsh Condon welcomed all to today's Board of Health meeting and reviewed today's agenda.

Agenda Items

1. HEARING: Application for Body Art Variance

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz presented the application for Body Art Practitioner. Caeleigh Smith is applying to be an apprentice in Arlington with Ink Jam. All necessary documents were included, except the provided evidence of two years' experience. Included in the application was the training outline. Smith is applying for a variance to gain this experience in Arlington. The department supports the application.

Smith shared she has grown up in Arlington and has always been interested in art. She graduated from MassArt in 2018 and is excited to pursue Body Art. James Quinn shared he is excited to have Caeleigh join him. He holds his shop to a high standard and knows she will keep that standard.

Dr. Laura White no questions or comments
Dr. Peter Rice had no questions or comments.

Motion made by Dr. Peter Rice to approve the application with the variance.
2nd by Dr. Laura White.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

2. HEARING

Tobacco Regulation Violation – Arlington Heights Convenience

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz shared that Arlington Heights Convenience was found in violation of the Tobacco Regulations after an inspection conducted on January by Maureen Buzby and Reilly Ellis. The violations included failure to post the state required signage, failure to hold a valid permit from the Town, failure to lock and secure nicotine products from the customer, and the sale of blunt wraps. This is the first violation for this establishment; the office recommends a \$1,000 fine and a suspension of the permit for 7 days.

Maureen Buzby, -- from --. Upon inspection it was found the store did not have the required permit and were given the options to close the store or remove all the tobacco products from the store until the valid permit had been obtained. The required State Department of Revenue permits had been obtained. Buzby had other concerns that are not violations, including Kratom, an unregulated substance; there were a high number of drug paraphernalia/marijuana accessories. After the permit was obtained, Buzby conducted another inspection and the issues had all been corrected. She conducted manager education for the staff on the regulations and violations at that time.

Dr. Laura White – No questions, is looking to hear from the owner.

Dr. Peter Rice was looking for clarification on Kratom which Maureen Buzby provided. Kratom is a stimulant that is not regulated and for sale in many convenience stores throughout the state.

Bhargav Patel is the manager of Arlington Heights Convenience. He has made the changes to be consistent with the Regulations.

No public comments.

Motion made by Dr. Peter Rice to uphold the recommendation of the staff for the fine and permit suspension.

2nd by Dr. Laura White.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

3. TOBACCO UPDATES

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz presented Reilly Ellis to the Board to approved as an agent to conduct Tobacco Inspections in Arlington.

Reilly Ellis shared that they have a Bachelor's degree in Public Health and are currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health at Boston University. They have previously worked with a Drug Free Community coalition for two years in Beverly and as a case manager at a young adult center. They took the role as the Regional Tobacco Coordinator to engage in policy and enforcement. The towns in the regional group are Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Norwood, Randolph, Stoughton, and Watertown.

Dr. Laura White asked about the training process for a tobacco inspector. Ellis shared that there are no official certifications, but they have been doing field training along with virtual inspection and policy trainings provided by various state organizations. Ellis has also been reviewing each community's local regulations and meeting with the Boards of Health.

Motion made by Dr. Walsh Condon to appoint Reilly Ellis as an agent of the Board of Health.

2nd by Dr. Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

4. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Director Leger shared staffing updates that included the promotion of Charlotte Breef-Pilz to the Assistant Director of Public Health for the Department. The vacant Health Compliance Officer Position will be posted shortly. The Director will likely be announced at next month's meeting. Health and Human Services has been going through a few other transitions including filling the Community Resource Specialist, Denisa Burt, as well as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director, who will be starting next week. The Department is also grateful to have a regional tobacco inspector again, as the position has been vacant for some time.

Dr. Rice inquired about his Board term expiring soon. Dr. Walsh Condon explained that a notice will be sent from the Select Board, who will automatically renew the appointment unless they are notified otherwise.

5. NURSING UPDATES

Nurse Kerr shared that the Community Health Improvement Plan goals and objectives created from the planning meeting were reviewed by staff last week. It will next be sent to the advisory committee.

There has been a large uptick in flu this season. The notification of flu in the community only comes into our office through MAVEN if someone is laboratory tested and confirmed positive. In January there were over 100 confirmed laboratory cases, which is rare for the Department. Kerr has been in communication with the school nurses to review guidelines on when children should be staying home from school.

Dr. Rice asked when a doctor would test for flu. Dr. Walsh Condon shared that there is now one swab that can be tested for flu, COVID19 and RSV. She shared that she is testing anyone presenting with respiratory symptoms. This process has changed over the past few years as there are differing treatments that can be offered.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATES

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz shared that permit season has concluded. The Department is preparing for the gas powered leaf blower ban by commercial users as of March 15, 2025. Communication will go out to commercial operators and town residents.

Lindsey Sharp provided a regional update from the Metro Public Health Collaborative. There are plans in the spring for a Housing Court training for the inspectors within the region. A comparison of the process for housing inspections will be taking place this spring between the four communities.

Dr. Rice asked about a housing inspection for lack of heat in the winter. Breef-Pilz explained that the inspections are conducted in rental properties that have reported the heat to be below the minimums outlined in the Housing Code. Temperatures are taken and an order letter is written as normal if violations are found, but is also typically followed with other communication that will address the issue at a faster rate.

7. RESTAURANT UPDATES

Assistant Director Breef-Pilz shared that has been an increase in residential kitchen applications. The Regeant Theatre has changed ownership. Mojin Solutions has hired a new inspector to help with the load in Arlington. Pierce School had a malfunctioning sprinkler system in the walk-in freezer. Breef-Pilz and Sharp conducted an inspection, the food has been discarded and alternative lunch plans have been made while the area is cleaned dried and the system is addressed.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 26th, this has been changed to March 12th at 4:00pm.

Motion to Adjourn made by Dr. Peter Rice.

Motion 2nd by Dr. Laura White

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.